

Appl. No. 08/886,516  
Preliminary Amendment Oct. 10, 2003

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

*Sub B*  
~~1. (currently amended) A method for verifying the source of an article of manufacture, thesaid method comprising the steps of:~~

- DJ*  
~~a) preparing a label, thesaid label having comprising an unreplicable pattern and information relating to thesaid article;~~
- ~~b) processing describing said the unreplicable pattern and including the said description processed unreplicable pattern with the said information relating to the said article;~~
- ~~c) encrypting at least a portion of thesaid information relating to thesaid article;~~
- ~~d) securely associating thesaid article, said the label, and a tangible representation of thesaid encrypted information.~~

*X*  
~~2.(original) A method described in Claim 1 wherein said information included on said label includes verifying information for protecting against unauthorized use of duplicate labels.~~

*X*  
~~3.(original) A method as described in Claim 2 wherein said verifying information includes information consisting of: an expiration date, a unique identification of said article of manufacture, an identification of a provider of said article of manufacture, or information describing said article of manufacture.~~

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4. (previously canceled)

5.(previously amended) A method as described in Claim 1  
wherein said unreproducible pattern is formed from magnetic fibers embedded  
in said label.

6.(previously amended) A method as described in Claim 1  
wherein said encrypted information is encrypted with a first private key of a first  
public/private key pair and a corresponding first public key is available to parties  
who wish to validate the source of said article.

7.(original) A method as described in Claim 6 wherein a  
trusted third party provides a party producing said label with said first private key  
and with an encryption of said first public key by a second private key kept secret  
by said trusted third party, said producing party including said encryption of said  
first public key with said label and said trusted third party providing a  
corresponding second public key to parties who wish to verify the source of said  
article; whereby said parties can recover said first public key from said label so  
that articles from a large number of different sources can be verified without the  
need to maintain a corresponding database of public keys.

8. (previously canceled)

9. (previously canceled)

10. (previously canceled)

11. (previously canceled)